

Parks and Recreation Commissioners

City of San José

via email: Teresa.Meyer-Calvert@sanjoseca.gov, sent Sept. 1, 2017

re: Commission Meeting 9/6/17, item VII-a: GreenPrint update

Dear Commissioners,

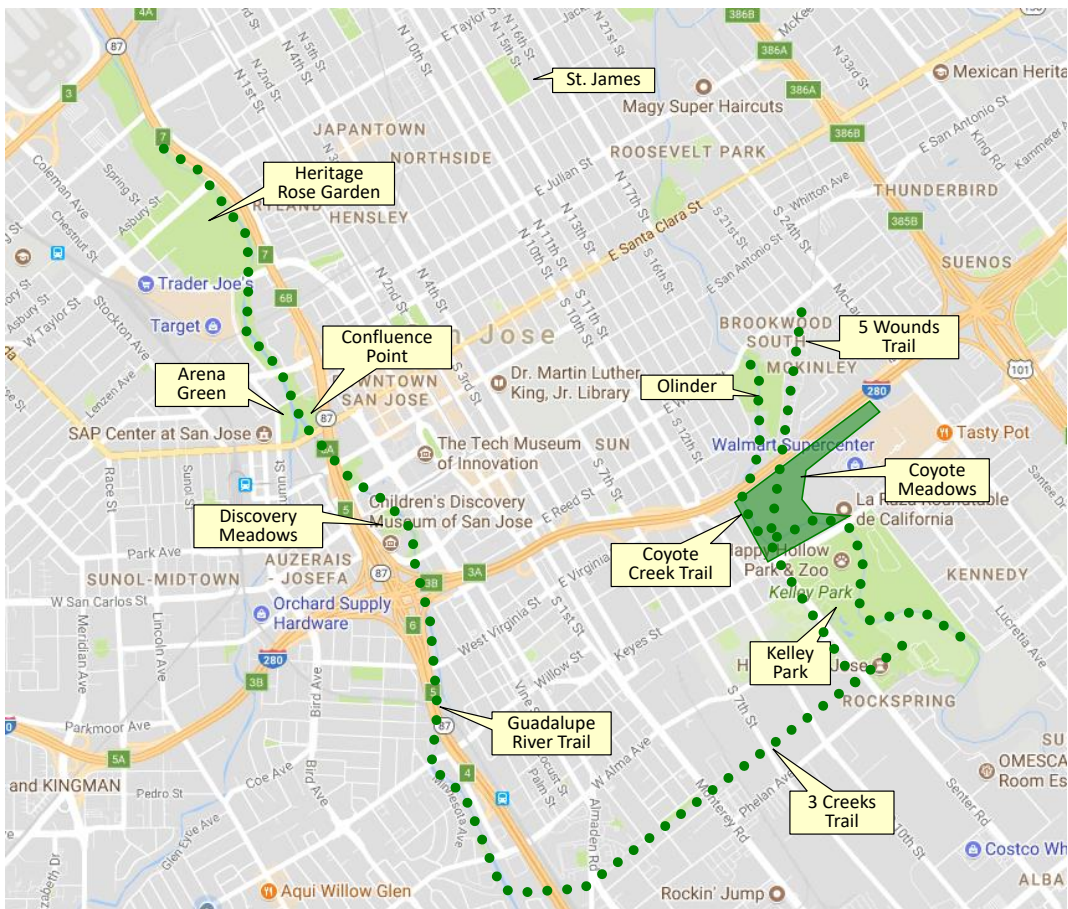
At your next Commission meeting, you'll receive an update on PRNS's Strategic Plan update process, the GreenPrint, including a discussion on whether San José might be able to develop a "Grand Park" of some kind, on par with New York's Central Park or San Francisco's Golden Gate.

You'll also hear from members of the public describing ideas for possibly converting a notorious former homeless encampment and a closed landfill into a new city park: "Coyote Meadows".

As a member of both the GreenPrint taskforce and the Coyote Meadows Coalition, I'd like to plant the seed of an idea: combine them!

San José's recent General Plan update ("Envision 2040") also struggled with the concept of what could be San José's Grand Park, and they arrived at the idea of a "distributed park": the Guadalupe River Chain, with its Heritage Rose Garden, Arena Green, Confluence Point, and Discovery Meadows, combined with the Coyote Creek Chain's Kelley Park, with the Happy Hollow Zoo, Japanese Tea Garden, and SJ History Park, all tied together by the trail network, including The Three Creeks Trail.

Coyote Meadows can complement that by expanding and augmenting Kelley Park.



We are just at the beginning phase on Coyote Meadows: the Coalition is using a grant from the Open Space Authority to work with a consultant (skeo) on a public outreach to solicit ideas. As part of our effort, we're hosting an on-site tour on Saturday morning, Sept. 30, from 10:30 AM to noon: I hope you'll join us! (For more info on the tour and to RSVP, see www.CoyoteMeadowsSJ.org). Consider ideas how Coyote Meadows could add to Kelley Park, and also how it could connect – perhaps by creek trails, historic trolley tracks, and/or maybe even a skyway walk above the zoo, road, and riparian habitat ("Jungle")?

These are not fully developed designs at this point – I'm writing you now just to suggest some possibilities, to dream, and to invite you to join our tour!

~Larry Ames

GreenPrint taskforce member and member of the Coyote Meadows Coalition.

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